

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, and 18-21 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant cancels claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer and amends claims 1, 5, 10, 20, and 21. As a result, claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11, and 18-21 are pending for examination with claims 1, 20 and 21 being independent claims. No new matter is added.

Claim Objection is Overcome

Claim 5 stands objected to for lacking antecedent basis for the term “the broadband network”. Applicant amends claim 5 to instead recite “a broadband network” thereby addressing the lack of antecedent basis. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1 and 21

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14-17, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Christensen (US 2004/0141468). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chistensen in view of Rai (US 6,675,208). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chistensen in view of Russ (U.S. 2003/01652320).

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 9, which is hereby cancelled. Additionally, the recitation of “PVC ID of the subscriber terminal is deleted from claim 1. Claim 21 is amended in a manner similar to claim 1.

Christensen primarily relates to a method and system for mapping original media access control (MAC) addresses to unique locally administered virtual MAC address in an ethernet network. An access node uses an address mapping function to map each original MAC address to one of a plurality of locally administered virtual MAC addresses, and vice versa. The six most significant bits of the first octet of the address are used to define a domain for the address, and the second least significant bit of the first octet indicates that the address is a locally administered MAC address. The second and third octets of the address are used to indicate a unit-specific use. The last three octets of the address indicate an organizationally assigned unit unique MAC address. Additional address mapping functions may map original addresses from different sources onto the same ethernet network while maintaining the uniqueness of each virtual MAC address.

Christensen however does not disclose, even in light of paragraph [0034], that the subscriber location, information code comprises one or more indexes of MAC address, priority, protocol encapsulation mode, and subscriber type of the subscriber terminal that describe subscriber characteristics as claim 1 is amended to recite.

For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 21 patentably distinguish Christensen. Rai and Russ fail to satisfy these deficiencies of Christensen. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of these claims and any claims depending therefrom is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 20

Claim 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chistensen in view of Russ.

Claim 20, as amended, recites that the 48-bit subscriber location information code comprises: 5 bits, index of the MAC address of a subscriber terminal; 7 bits, index of an identifier of the network access device; 7 bits, index of a port number of a port through which the subscriber accesses the network; and 5 bits, index of a slot number of a subscriber interface board having the port.

Due to using the indexes of MAC address, priority, protocol encapsulation mode, and subscriber type of the subscriber terminal, the method defined by claim 20 is also capable of identifying specific computer, set-top box(STB), or the like, connected to a DSL modem, so that the real subscriber characteristics could be identified more definitely. To the contrary, Christensen identifies only the DSL modem using the ADSL line number and PVC information (e.g. see paragraph [0033] and [0034]). Russ fails to satisfy this deficiency of Christensen. For at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 20 is believed to be overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Docket No. H0678.70002US00.

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Respectfully submitted,

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